

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB



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AND SEND IT TO VI POLK; her address is on the next page.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB
CO/MIKE DANAHY

WINDSOR, CO. 80550



KERRY & PAULINE EDWARDS

AURORA CO 80014



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

Oh!, It's a sport for kings, life on the twist of a paddle...

Robert Service

CO PRESIDENT

Sandy Horn

CO-PRESIDENT

John Daly

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mike Danahy

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Carol Aikin

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP

Vi Polk

TRAINING OFFICER

Ray Crockett

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- FEB 19 - Pool Sessions Begin
- March 9 - Trip Scheduling Meeting
- March 25 - Spring Meeting
- April 1 - Pool Roundup
- April 7 - April Newsletter Deadline
- June 3 - June Newsletter Deadline
- Aug. 15 - Aug. Newsletter Deadline

POOL SESSIONS

Rolling, Paddling, Frolicking
Gateway High School, Aurora
\$18/person for 6 sessions
\$4/person/session
Starts Friday Feb. 19.
Contact Don Clark

TRIP SCHEDULING

Wednesday March 9, 1988.
Bob and Carol Aikin

SPRING ROUNDUP/POOL SESSION

Gateway HS, April 1, 1988.
Contact Bob Aikin 744-7383

SPRING MEETING

Friday, March 25
Glendale Community Center
7:00 p.m. Room A

Greetings from your Canoe Club President,

Time to begin thinking about using that paddle for something more fun than measuring the depths of the snow drift in your front yard. It'll soon be time to get ready for ...

A lazy float through the red rock canyons, the sun flashing off a dripping paddle, sharing snacks from boat to boat.

The excitement builds with the roar of the upcoming rapid. Terry, Ron and Dave stand up to get a better look at what lies before us...

The canoe ahead of you slides down the tongue and dips into the first big wave.

You line yourself up for that same spot. It's an eternity as your own canoe slowly approaches the smooth tongue.

Mike's encouragement is fresh in your ears, but ... do you remember how to do this? Yes, you do! WOW!! Not too rusty from the long winter. What a kick!

Lean into the waves, dodge the rock, then spin into the eddy and watch rest of the rainbow canoe parade splash by.

There'll be day trips, camping trips, lazy trips, exciting trips, probably a few windy or rainy trips. We won't mind blowing up our airbags, lashing down our gear, running the shuttle. Come on, summer. We welcome this year's newcomers and look forward to paddling again with old friends. (We'll miss you, Frank, returned to your East Coast rivers.)

Hope to see you all at the Spring Meeting on March 25th.

Sandy Horn

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Please update your membership by signing the waiver attached to the back of the newsletter. This will be the last newsletter for those not paying dues.



*Boulder
Outdoor
Center*

2510 N. 47th St.
Boulder, CO 80301

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So, don't get hooked without a newsletter, pay your dues; it would be greatly appreciated.

Also, if you cannot make the TRIP SCHEDULING meeting on Wednesday, March 2, please call Lyn Berry and let him know which trips you would like to lead; Lyn's phone number is This will be an important meeting because all trips for the upcoming year are planned. If you feel you would like to lead a trip, but are slightly reluctant to do so, don't worry, we will help you through the anxiety of being a trip leader. We are in particular need of easy and easy /intermediate trip leaders. Besides making the trip schedule for the upcoming year a decision will be made on how the RMCC telephone voice information recorder will be implemented. Again, this is a very important meeting and all of those who would like to provide constructive input are welcome.

One more item: if you have an article for this newsletter please send it to me (Mike Danahy) in a very edited format, i.e. typed or neatly hand written with little or no grammatical errors. If you would like to send it on disk please save your article as an ASCII file on either an IBM or Apple II series disk. If you would like to send it over the phone to my school's BBS the phone number is

Just leave your article as feedback to the SYSOP.

VIDEO REVIEW

The following is taken from Canoe magazine, August 1987 issue by Andy Dappen:

Guide to Canoeing, with Ken Stone. *Play time: 105 minutes.*



I wasn't expecting much. In fact, with a lusterless title like Guide to Canoeing, I thought the presentation would glaze my eyes and provide a "Guide to Better Sleep." Instead I found myself kneeling on the floor, broom in hand, practicing eddy turns, peel outs and cross-draws with my instructor, Ken Stone. Stone may not bring the energy or vitality to canoeing that Fonda does to aerobics, but he does a respectable job of presenting the appeal and the mechanics of the sport.

Filmed on wilderness rivers and lakes in Maine, the video transported me from the world surrounding my armchair into the seat of a canoe. I paddled glassy lakes that reflected the flaming colors of autumn, I shot rapids, and I gained inspiration to go paddling the following day.

The video teaches plenty of solid information - even experienced canoeists are likely to pick up salient tips. The tape's instructor, Ken Stone, twice won the National Master's Slalom Canoe Championship and coached the U.S. Whitewater Slalom Team. Anyone with those qualifications gets my ear when discussing paddling efficiency or the best stroke for a particular application. He also gets my eyes. I found it worthwhile dissecting his strokes in slow motion to analyze the precise movement of an accomplished paddler.

Besides teaching strokes for flat water and whitewater, the tape discusses design features of various canoes, necessary accessories, canoe terminology, solo canoeing, reading whitewater, safety guidelines, and rescue techniques. For the beginner, these parts of the tape are worth viewing and reviewing until the information is well chewed and thoroughly digested. Experienced paddlers will also benefit from an occasional review.

At times the video does drag and my initial concern about dozing resurfaced. In one section, Stone uses a model canoe in a creek to teach fundamentals of hydraulics. This information is important, but the presentation lacks the involvement that works so well elsewhere. There is also a portion of the video devoted to the heritage and construction of wood-canvas canoes that is out of context with the rest of the tape.



THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT PAY THEIR DUES. DON'T GET HOOKED WITHOUT A NEWSLETTER

Overall, however, this video does a solid job of teaching the fundamentals of canoeing. Those who purchase it will have an excellent tool to improve their skill and knowledge. They are likely to discover that a minute of moving pictures is worth a thousand book pictures. They are also likely to find themselves grabbing the kitchen broom to imitate what they watch. Their floor may not get any cleaner, but their sweep stroke will improve.

The club has purchased for your rental use a copy of Guide to Canoeing offered by L.L. Bean in both VHS and Beta Format. The video is available at a \$1.50 charge (to cover mailing costs) for a 10 day period. Use over that period will be charged at \$2.00 per week.



That is a bright idea

SANTA CLARA TRASH

You can make inexpensive, reliable, waterproof, floating containers using a trash compactor bag (about 40 cents) which is more durable than a regular garbage bag. The trash compactor bag must be put inside something else to protect it. For soft items (clothes, sleeping bags, etc.), put the trash compactor bag inside a canvas duffel bag (\$6 to \$16 depending on where you buy it). For hard items (pots and pans, food, equipment, etc.), put the trash compactor bag inside an inexpensive cooler (\$15 to \$40 depending on where you buy it). Seal the trash compactor bag with a Santa Clara clamp, and your duffel bag or cooler will be waterproof and will float.

The Santa Clara clamp, invented by John Santa Clara, famous canoeist and author, is easily made. Take a thirty-inch section of parachute cord and double it over so it's fifteen inches long. Tie an overhand knot close to the unconnected ends of the double cord. Put two spring-loaded line fasteners (available at any backpacking shop) on the double cord using the doubled-over end to thread through the fasteners. Tie off the doubled-over end with an overhand knot close to the end. You now have a double cord close to fifteen inches long with a knot at each end and two fasteners on the double cord between the knots. You will need one clamp for each trash compactor bag you use. To use: Take both fasteners and move them all the way to one end of the double cord leaving you a loop. Take the trash compactor bag and put a very tight twist in the open end. Slip the hook over the twisted end of the bag, and move one of the fasteners as tight against the twist as possible. Keep the tail end of the bag tightly twisted, and double it over putting it through the loop again.



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Move the second fastener against the doubled over twisted tail as tight as possible. You now have a seal that should be watertight so long as the bag is put inside another container (a duffel bag or a cooler) where the seal doesn't get jerked around a lot.

The Santa Clara clamp is inexpensive (about \$1.00), easy to make easy and quick to use, reusable, and effective.

We all have been so concerned about the proposed Two-forks Dam right on our backdoor, we might have a tendency to forget that there are other areas that are equally targeted. Below is a note from fellow RMCC member John Williams of Washington D.C. Although our letters will not reach Washington before the scheduled October 28 hearing, please write and let your views be known as Colorado boater.

Letter from Washington

The Animas LaPlata project, the Bureau of Wrecklamation project to significantly de-water the Animas River, is very active in Washington. Hearings were held September 16, 1987, in the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Senate hearings are schedule for October 28.

The first witness scheduled to speak on behalf of the project was the Honorable Timothy E. Wirth. This great environmentalist from Colorado made a mealy-mouthed presentation, asking that the house committee act to facilitate the legislation to build this project. My friends in Colorado assure me that Mr. Wirth is a good guy. My own daughter, who was on a raft trip with Mr. Wirth on the Arkansas in 1986, assures me that not only is he a good guy, but that he opposes the Animas LaPlata project. Whatever the case, Mr. Wirth is, in public, supporting the Animas LaPlata project, and I for one am not at all happy with Mr. Wirth.

A number of other notables spoke in favor of the Animas LaPlata, including Governor Romer, Senator Demenici from New Mexico, various members of the water boards, Ute tribal leaders, and farmers from the Dolores project who were intensely defensive about that project. However, there were those that spoke against the project, including two environmentalist (one of them me). The most interesting speaker was perhaps a representative of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Mr. Ralph Hunsaker, who spoke against the provision that would enable the Ute Indian tribes to steal their water downriver and out-of-state.

Others who spoke against the bill included a lobbyist for the American Public Power Association, concerned that the project, heavily subsidized by the rate payers from the Colorado River grid, is breaking the traditional rules of how electric consumers support irrigation projects.

Members of the taxpayers group in Durango that has been all but single handedly opposing the project also spoke. The most important message that I can bring you in this letter is that the best chance of defeating this project is to provide some financial support to that organization.

Tax deductible contributions to support their fight may be made to the American Wilderness Alliance, River Defense fund/TAR, 7100 E. Arapahoe Rd. #114, Englewood, Colorado, 80112.

You may wonder why you should contribute to stop the Animas-LaPlata project. This project will take 150,000 acre-feet of water from the Animas River, eliminate much boating on the Animas River in mid-summer, and seriously degrade if not eliminate summer time paddling downstream on the San Juan River in the goosenecks section.

There is perhaps a more important principle involved. The project costs, according to the Department of Interior, exceed its projected costs. If environmental destruction is necessary, it should provide extraordinarily good economic benefits to the society. We should not have to use our resources fighting non-economic projects. We have essentially established two principles in our water fights: water projects are not to be built in National Parks; & water projects will not be built if their costs exceed their benefits. If the bureau gets its funding for this project, they can then go for any fool project on any of our rivers.

John S. Williams Jr.

Environmental Policy Institute Washington, DC 4/4/1987

RIVER PERMITS

As a reprint from a newsletter of January 1986, listed below are the name and addresses of some of the more popular rivers for which permits are required. If a number of people submit requests for permits, we have a better chance of getting a few for some of these popular rivers. Write in and put your name on the list, if you are not able to use it, let the club know and possibly someone else could put it to good use.

COLORADO RIVER - GRAND CANYON National Park Service Grand Canyon National Park P.O.Box 129 Grand Canyon AZ 86023 602/638-7843 Request for waiting list enrollment must be made between February 1 and February 28

DELORES RIVER - GATEWAY TO COLORADO RIVER Bureau of Land Management Grand Resource Area Office P. O. Box M Moab UT 84532 801/259-6111 Ext. 200

GREEN RIVER - GRAY'S AND DESOLATION CANYONS Bureau of Land Management Moab District, Price River Resource Area P. O. Drawer AB Price UT 84501 Permit applications accepted between January 1 and March 1

GREEN RIVER - LADORE TO SPLIT MOUNTAIN Dinosaur National Monument P. O. Box 210 Dinosaur CO 81610 303/374-2468 Applications must be received at park headquarters between December 1 and January 15

SAN JUAN RIVER - BLUFF TO CLAY HILLS CROSSING Bureau of Land Management P. O. Box 7 Monticello UT 84535 801/587-2201 Requests for permits cannot be received before January 1

WESTWATER CANYON Bureau of Land Management Grand Resource Area Office P. O. Box M Moab UT 84532 801/259-6111 Ext. 211

YAMPA RIVER - DEER LODGE PARK TO ECHO PARK Dinosaur National Monument P. O. Box 210 Dinosaur CO 81610 303/374-2468 Applications must be received at park headquarters between December 1 and January 15

WILDERNESS CANOEING: CANADA'S LAKES AND RIVERS

Jill and Bob Stoecker

In mid-winter about the only thing Colorado canoe people can do is read about canoeing--short of going somewhere south. But there is another alternative: one can write about it, and share a very enjoyable experience with someone else.

We want to tell the club about our month-long Canadian trip of this past year. It's a small way of contributing something to the club and thanking the many people who have given us much needed instruction on white water paddling.

About the middle of August we began our annual autumn migration---this year to the Cochrane River, 725 miles north of the U.S. boarder. The Cochrane flows from Wollaston Lake to Reindeer Lake in northern Saskatchewan and

Manitoba. We decide to slowly wander this northern waterway for a month. The journey would be 300 miles and through some of Canada's finest wilderness. We successfully accomplished the trip at a 13-mile per day pace counting the time needed for portages. This did not include, however, "days off" for bad weather and fish smoking. For the first 200 miles we did not see a person or hear an airplane. The last 100 miles were between two Indian reservations and here we occasionally encountered Indians travelling the river fishing or hunting moose. The river is little travelled by present day canoeists. The portage trails, made long ago by caribou-seeking Chipewyan Indians, were sometimes hard to find. We obtained a copy of a previous canoe party's 1979 trip journal, but it was of questionable help in locating the obscure portage trails and describing the rapids. Frequently it was downright wrong. We allowed plenty of time for the trip, partly because autumn weather is windy and we expected delays, but mainly because we wanted to take our time--really live up there and try to get some feel for the hunting and gathering way of life the Indians once had. Facilitating this were vast carpets of dwarf cranberries and plenty of easily-caught fish. Fish became the mainstay of our diet. About 50 nice big ones found their way to the campfire. Although the cranberries and blueberries seemed to take forever to pick, they were a much welcomed delicacy. We spent several days in one camp smoking fish the Indian way--by constructing a wood pole tripod, hanging rack, and wrapping the structure with willow boughs and a plastic sheet to keep the smoke inside.

The Cochrane is mostly a slow moving river which threads its way through numerous lakes on its journey to Reindeer Lake. But it does have its whitewater. We shot 23 rapids, some a good class II. But nothing too daring; you don't want to get too intrepid when your alone in the wilderness. The route was often complicated by blind bays and islands, yet easy enough to follow using Canadian 1:50,000 topo maps and an occasional compass bearing. We portaged 10 rapids and falls. The longest was two and a half miles; it took the entire day to make three hauls over the rough trail with the canoe and our 180 pounds of gear and food. Although we have condensed and refined our camping equipment, we would not do without our spacious 4-man tent, compartmented cook box, folding camp chairs, and, for rainy or windy days, or light-weight leanto. For us, autumn is by far the best time to be in the North Country. waterfowl are congregating into migratory flocks and their big V's cover the sky. The chilly nights (35 -45) make you appreciate the warmth of a campfire; and with wool clothes, the cool days (50 - 60) are great for paddling. insects are not too much of a problem with the cooler temperatures, although pesky sand flies are out on warmer days. But best of all the brilliant gold of birch, poplar,

and willow highlights an otherwise somber conifer landscape. And the night sky glows a pale green with the northern lights.

The country we travelled through is dominated by black spruce, with an understory of spongy sphagnum moss. For the most part, the topography is gently undulating. But popping out of the forest at seemingly random locations, every 10 miles or so, are eskers. These are large (25-75 feet high) sandy ridges that were once the sediment of streams which flowed on top of ice-age glaciers. They were a delight to behold--covered with pale green caribou lichen, carpets of dwarf blueberries and cranberries, and various patches here and there of maroon and golden shrubs. Widely spaced birch, white spruce, and jack pine create a striking park-like appearance, as if deigned by someone for an arboretum. We camped atop many of the eskers, always picking a site with a commanding view of the winding river.

Wildlife is not all that abundant up there, but we did see river otter, mink, beaver, porcupine, red squirrels, and signs of moose, caribou, black bear, wolf, and red fox. Waterfowl were quite conspicuous with Canada geese, loons, terns, and gulls; and less commonly, mergansers, sandhill cranes, black ducks, teals, grebes, and sandpipers. The birds of prey included bald eagles, osprey, goshawks, and harriers.

Now that we are again in civilization, we often reflect on how beautiful that country is up there where people seldom go. It has a pristine serenity that is hard to find in National parks and so-called wilderness areas where man is too frequent a visitor. We feel fortunate in having experienced some very wonderful remoteness. It really is nice to take your canoe out and be alone for awhile. Canoeing in the North Country requires skill in handling waves on big lakes as well as handling whitewater. Canoeists venturing up there for the first time should be particularly cautious. Wind blown waves on large lakes can be as dangerous as running rapids.

Unfortunately, we have not found a good article on canoeing big waves. On our recent trip to Canada, however, we met *Marcel De Laforest*, who wrote the informative article--HOW TO READ A RIVER. It is reprinted from WESTERN SPORTSMAN: Alberta, Saskatchewan Mar/Apr 1986. We would like to pass it on for those who might be interested in a wilderness perspective.

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ONLY ITEM FOR SALE:



Chris Bidwell is selling his Hydra Centaur C1 for \$150. It comes with a pedistal and thigh straps. Call Chris after 5 pm at 466-6607.